dues. While the Corporation's own preference is to receive the amounts by Demand Drafts or Telegraphic Transfers, the mode of payment is ultimately left to be decided by the State Electricity Boards themselves and the Corporation does not refuse payment by cheques.

Expansion of Haldia Refinery

3565. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for the expansion of Haldia refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Infrastructural constraints do not permit such expansion.

Supply of Coal to Karnataka

3566. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have slashed coal supplies to industries in Western and Southern regions by over 50 percent which has severly hit industries in many States including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the cement industry and taxtile units have suffered due to this cut; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the demand of coal to industries in Karnataka?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d) It is true that coal supply to non-core sector industries during the first quarter of the year, 1991-92 were affected because more coal was being despatched on priority to core sectors, mainly the power sector. Therefore non-core sector industrial units including textiles units in different States, including Karnataka had to face some difficulties. Even core sector industry like cement had to put up with occasional shortfalls in coal supply. However, steps have since been taken to improve the situation. Ministry of Coal have issued instructions to all coal companies to supply at least 50% of the linked quantity of coal to non-core sector industries. Higher priority in movement of coal is being accorded for cement sector. This is expected to improve the availability of coal to industries all over the country including Karnataka.

Power Tariff Structure

3567. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has urged the State Governments to pay immediate attention to the tariff structure; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has not issued any specific instructions to the State Governments on the tariff structure of State Electricity Boards. However, the need to rationalise the tariff structure for improving the financial position of the SEBs has been emphasised to the States from time to time in various forums of discussions, and for taking steps like equity participation, provision of specific grant to meet the losses for supply of power to the agriculture sector, revision of tariff, improving the performance of generating stations, reducing T&D losses, etc. so that they earn the necessary statutory surplus of 3%.

Airlink between Bhubaneswar-Madras etc.

3568. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa